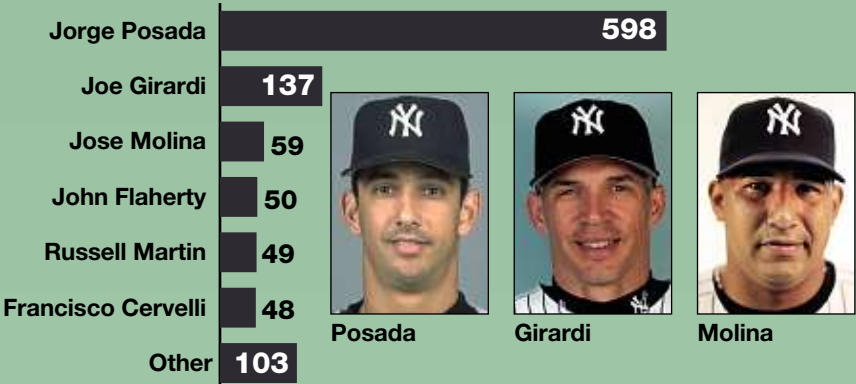


A cutter above

Mariano Rivera becomes baseball's all-time saves leader

The Yankees' Mariano Rivera is now No. 1 on the all-time saves list after passing Trevor Hoffman. Rivera's success as a closer can be defined by one signature pitch – a sharp-moving, mid-90s cut-fastball that has baffled opposing hitters for the past two decades. Signed by the Yankees in 1990 as an amateur free agent, Rivera made his major league debut in 1995 as a starting pitcher. After struggling in that role and being moved to the bullpen, he had a breakthrough season in 1996 as the setup man for John Wetteland. Rivera took over the closer's role in 1997 and established himself as one of baseball's elite relievers, leading the major leagues in saves in 1999, 2001 and 2004. He has been instrumental in the Yankees' five world championship seasons of 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2009.

Games by catcher



Note: Five games during his career, he has pitched to two catchers

Rivera against batters

Minimum 10 at bats

Most effective	AB	H	BA	Least effective	AB	H	BA
Ray Durham	26	0	.000	Edgar Martinez	16	10	.625
Alex Rios	15	0	.000	Magglio Ordonez	14	7	.500
Marty Cordova	12	0	.000	Roberto Alomar	11	5	.455
Carlos Pena	11	0	.000	Sandy Alomar	11	5	.455
Dustin Pedroia	10	0	.000	Bill Mueller	11	5	.455
Tony Clark	10	0	.000	Hank Blalock	12	5	.417
A.J. Pierzynski	14	1	.071	Darin Erstad	12	5	.417
Terry Steinbach	13	1	.077	Paul Konerko	12	5	.417
Matt Lawton	13	1	.077	Mo Vaughn	12	5	.417
Scott Hatteberg	13	1	.077	Aubrey Huff	20	8	.400
				Todd Zeile	10	4	.400



Active saves leaders

Rk	Player	Saves
1.	Mariano Rivera	602
2.	Francisco Cordero	323
3.	Jason Isringhausen	300
4.	Francisco Rodriguez	291
5.	Joe Nathan	260
6.	Jose Valverde	239
7.	Brad Lidge	223
8.	Jonathan Papelbon	218
9.	Brian Fuentes	199
10.	Huston Street	178

Note: Except for Rivera, stats are as of Sunday's games

All-time saves leaders

Rk	Player	Saves
1.	Mariano Rivera	602
2.	Trevor Hoffman	601
3.	Lee Smith	478
4.	John Franco	424
5.	Billy Wagner	422
6.	Dennis Eckersley*	390
7.	Jeff Reardon	367
8.	Troy Percival	358
9.	Randy Myers	347
10.	Rollie Fingers*	341
11.	John Wetteland	330
12.	Roberto Hernandez	326
13.	Francisco Cordero	323
	Jose Mesa	323
15.	Todd Jones	319
16.	Rick Aguilera	318
17.	Robb Nen	314
18.	Tom Henke	311
19.	Rich Gossage*	310
20.	Jeff Montgomery	304

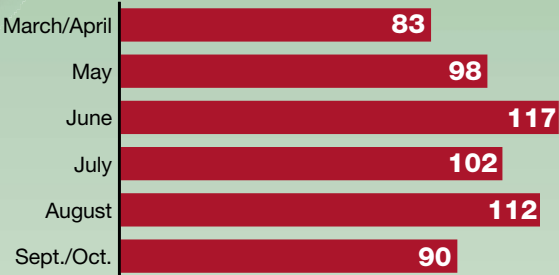
*Inducted into the Hall of Fame

Yankee saves leaders

Rk	Player	Saves
1.	Mariano Rivera	602
2.	Dave Righetti	224
3.	Rich Gossage*	151
4.	Sparky Lyle	141
5.	Johnny Murphy	104

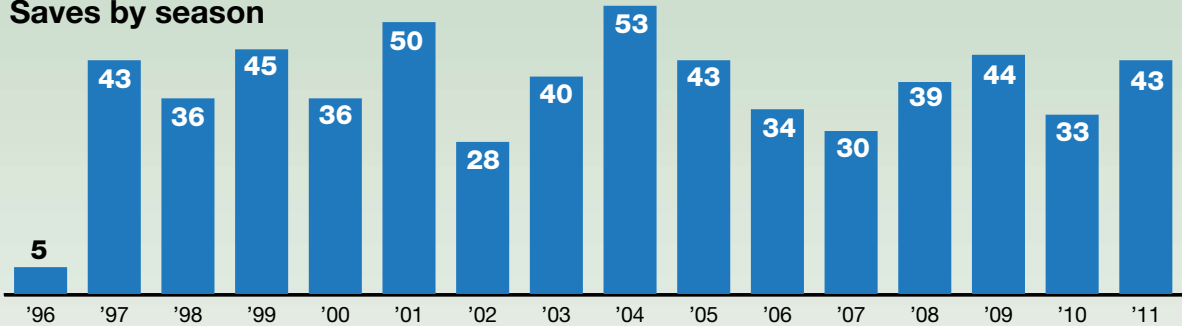
*Inducted into the Hall of Fame

Saves by month

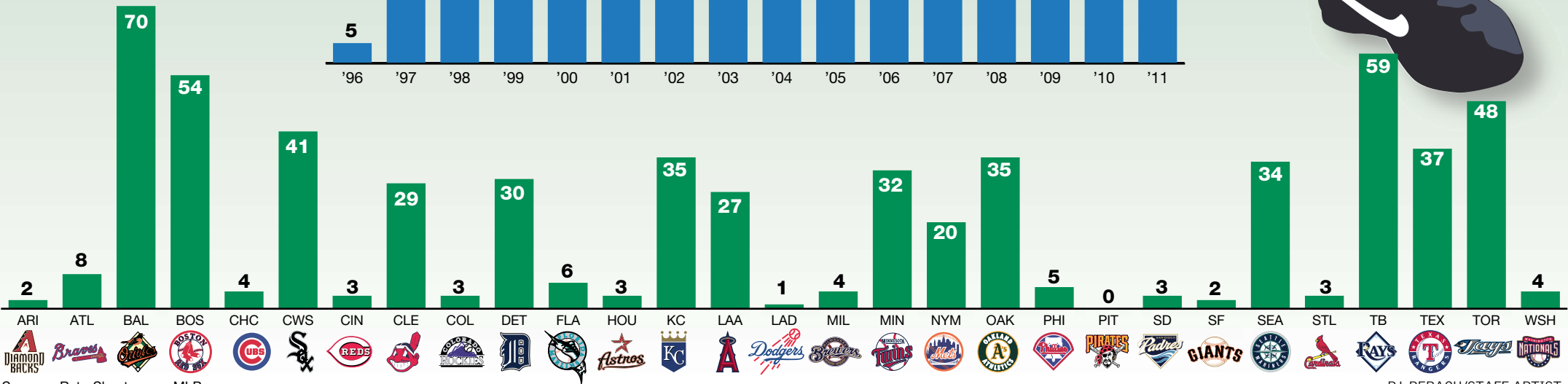


For an interactive look at Mariano Rivera's stats go to northjersey.com

Saves by season



Saves vs. opponent



Sources: RetroSheets.com, MLB.com

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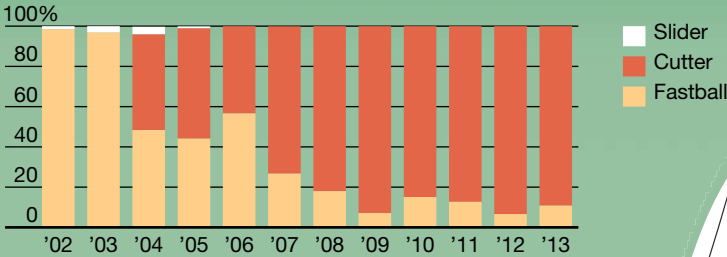
Exit Sandman

Mariano Rivera closes out a career

The man who has come to define his position, Rivera leaves a legacy beyond the number of saves he recorded. A Yankee for his entire 19-year career and their closer for the past 17 years, he dominated the ninth inning with a mixture of fastballs: two-seamers, four-seamers and his signature cutter. The bottom line is when he came into the game, it was usually over for the opposing team.

Pitch selection

In the beginning, fastball dominated Rivera's repertoire. Gradually, the cutter developed and then became the dominant pitch.



Note: Pitch type has only been tracked since 2002.

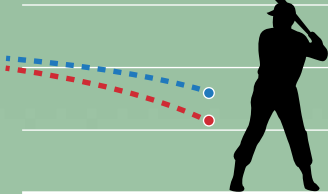
The cutter

Held and thrown with the same motion as his four-seam fastball, Rivera manipulates the movement of this pitch by adjusting the pressure of his fingers.

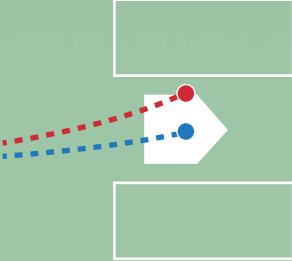


Horizontal drop

- Four-seam fastball
- Cutter

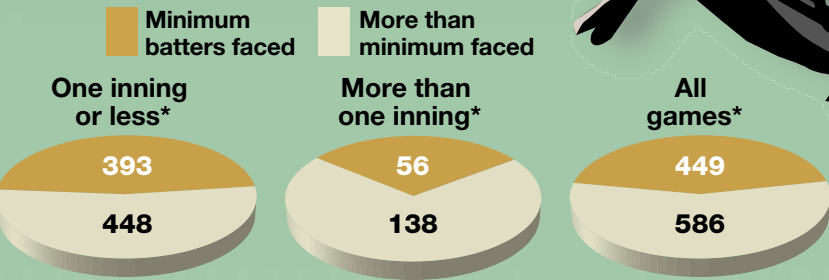


Vertical break



Making outs

One of the marks of Rivera's legacy was his efficiency. He pitched in 1,035 games as the Yankee closer, even though some appearances were not save situations. In almost half of those games, he faced the minimum number of batters.

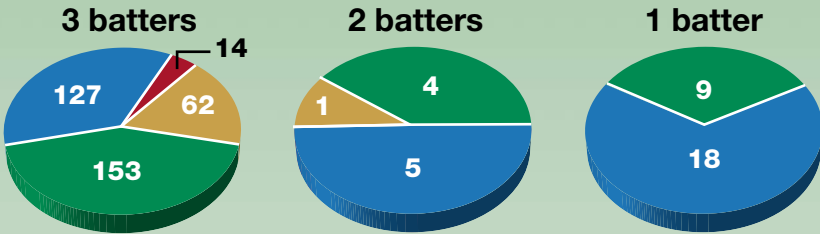


*As a closer

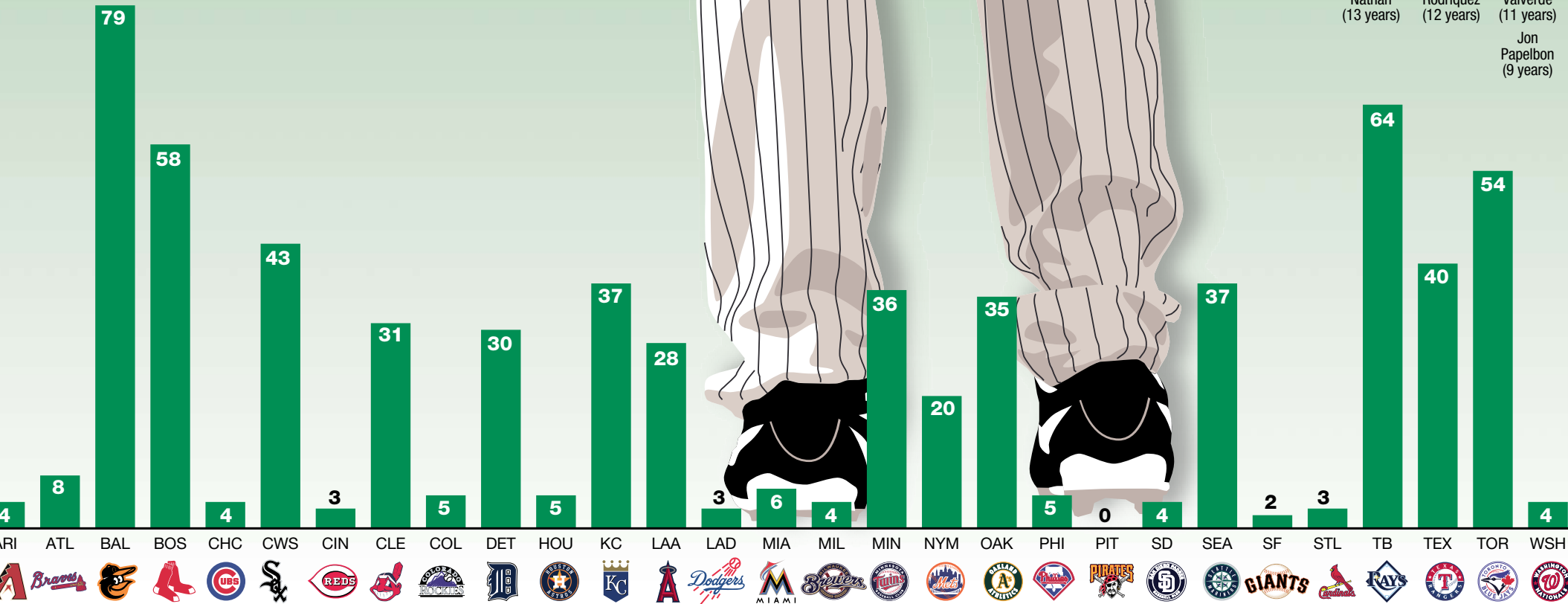
Strikeouts

In 393 appearances of one inning or less, where Rivera faced the minimum number of batters, here is how many batters he struck out:

- Three
- Two
- One
- None

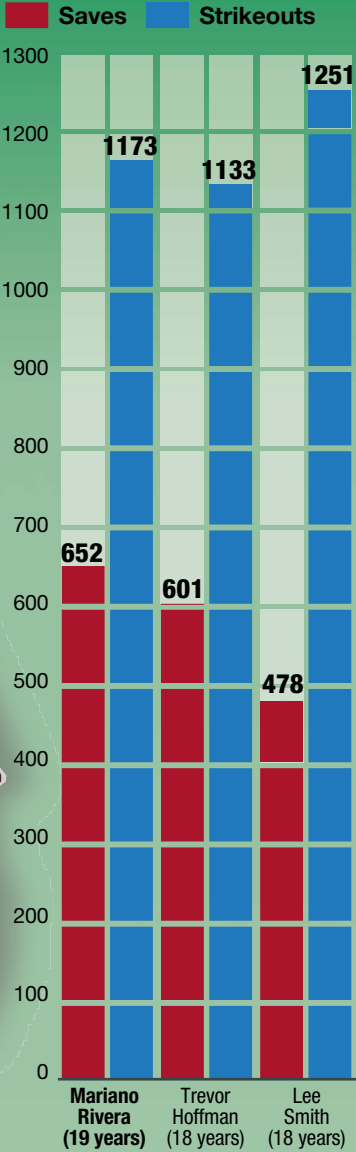


Saves vs. opponent



Saves vs. strikeouts

Rivera ends his career as the all-time saves leader, and he is among the top three closers in strikeouts.



Still making saves

The top four active saves leaders behind Rivera

